

To: R2 EPA Region 2 (EPA Staff)[R2_EPA_Region_2_EPA_Staff@epa.gov]
From: Shore, Berry
Sent: Mon 4/18/2016 11:54:14 AM
Subject: POFA CLIPs

DOH: Blood tests reveal PFOA exposure, but can't predict health risks

By Torie Wells |Friday

April 15th 2016

Channel 6 News Albany

Several viewers raised questions at the CBS6 Water Contamination Crisis Town Hall about blood test results. CBS6 News brought those questions to the New York State Department of Health.

A spokesperson for DOH told CBS6 News in an emailed response that testing started mid-February. He said residents have been told that results would take 2-3 months because PFOA testing is complicated and time consuming.

DOH said results will be mailed to residents when they are ready. DOH expects to start mailing some results within the next few weeks. Information sessions at the Armory will continue after those results are released so residents can continue to talk to DOH representatives.

The DOH spokesperson said, "The blood testing is a way to learn more about people's actual exposure to PFOA. It will also tell us how the levels of PFOA in the blood of people living in or near Hoosick Falls compared to people living elsewhere."

He said, "The results are helpful when it comes to understanding the degree of exposure, but they cannot be used to predict whether an individual will have an increased risk for any specific health problems."

The spokesperson also said that the CDC produces the National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals, tracking levels of PFOA in blood.
<http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/>

Factory owner offers \$4M for PFOA response; state seeks more

by Mike Polhamus

Apr. 15, 2016

VTDigger.com

The company that owns the factory believed to have contaminated in North Bennington residential wells has pledged more than \$4 million for water testing, bottled water and filtration, a state official said Thursday.

The state is asking the company for at least an estimated \$10 million more to pay for new municipal water lines to replace the polluted wells.

The company, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, has not accepted responsibility for the contamination, which affects more than 100 households in the Bennington area, said Environmental Conservation Commissioner Alyssa Schuren.

Saint-Gobain owns the former Chemfab factory in North Bennington and operated it between 2000 and 2002 before moving operations to New Hampshire.

This factory and the original Chemfab factory in Bennington are believed to be sources of the perfluorooctanoic acid contaminating residents' wells, according to state experts.

PFOA was used in the manufacture of Teflon products before the industry voluntarily phased it out by 2015.

Officials have not yet determined by what precise route the chemical apparently left the factories and found its way into drinking water and surface waters. But at other PFOA-contaminated sites in the United States, the chemical was introduced into the environment through factories' smokestacks, according to DuPont documents released in the course of a successful lawsuit against that company in West Virginia.

Saint-Gobain has promised to pay up to \$650,000 for bottled water for affected residents, Schuren told the Senate Institutions Committee on Thursday. The company has also pledged to pay for \$500,000 worth of water testing and analysis, along with \$3 million for carbon filtration systems to treat contaminated wells.

The filters are meant to serve in the short term, but for the longer term Schuren said the state is "in conversations" with Saint-Gobain to persuade it to pay an estimated \$10 million to connect residents whose wells are polluted to the municipal water supply. Schuren said the company has already committed to pay for engineering studies for the water lines.

DEC attorneys have said it's likely that statute would allow the state to force Saint-Gobain to pay for all necessary remediation, should upcoming tests determine positively that the chemical originated at the Chemfab factory.

Schuren said her office is in contact weekly with Saint-Gobain and that Gov. Peter Shumlin is having conversations with the company's chief executive every other week.

More than 100 residential wells in the North Bennington area contain PFOA in

concentrations exceeding the state recommended maximum of 20 parts per trillion in water.

Four wells in Pownal, along with a municipal water supply serving 450 residents, have also been found to contain PFOA above the recommended limit. The toxicant is suspected to have come from the former Warren Wire factory there, which was founded by the same Vermont entrepreneur who started Chemfab. Both factories treated products with Teflon.

Schuren said that General Cable, the company that purchased Warren Wire, has not accepted responsibility for the water pollution in Pownal.

The state has tested 11 other sites around the state where Teflon is thought to have been used or manufactured. Immediate costs could run as high as several million dollars, according to DEC estimates. But the price tag could end up significantly lower than in the Bennington area, Schuren said, because most homes near those 11 other sites are already hooked to municipal water supplies.

Funding for these tests came from the state's environmental contingency fund, Schuren said, and her department is likely to use that fund's available \$1.4 million before the year is through.

Although companies held responsible for the contamination will eventually be required to reimburse the state for expenses, Schuren said, until then the state will need to cover costs itself.

For 2016, the DEC will likely need to supplement its budget to cover these emerging costs, said Deputy Commissioner George Desch.

To better respond to similar incidents in the future, Schuren told the Institutions Committee that she'll be asking to bolster the environmental contingency fund when the new legislative session begins in January. The fund currently receives \$290,000 yearly, Desch said.

Additional PFOA test results come back in Petersburg

Updated: April 15, 2016, 10:49 pm

Channel 10 News.com

PETERSBURGH, N.Y. (NEWS10) – More PFOA results from private wells in the Petersburg area have been released.

The New York State Department of Health and the state Department of Environmental Conservation said eight more private wells were tested for the harmful chemical. Of those,

two showed levels of PFOA between 101 parts per trillion and 1,000 ppt.

None were over that amount.

The other six showed levels between 21 ppt and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance level of 100 ppt.

Bennington College will use most of grant for water sampling, testing of PFOA

By WRGB Staff |

Saturday, April 16th 2016

Channel 6 Albany

BENNINGTON, Vt. -- Bennington College's Center for the Advancement of Public Action will use most of a recent \$90,000 "rapid response" grant for water sampling and analysis of PFOA.

Professor David Bond said the class will test homes for months, to determine why houses that are near each other have variations in PFOA levels. He said the class will not study the chemical's impact on a person's health.

Factory owner offers \$4m for PFOA response

Posted: 04/15/2016 04:18:16 PM

By Mike Polhamus

Brattleboro Reformer

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The state is asking the company for at least an estimated \$10 million more to pay for new municipal water lines to replace the polluted wells.

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Costs for water contamination probe reach upward of \$150,000

By KIMBERLY HOUGHTON

April 16, 2016 9:30PM

New Hampshire Union Leader

MERRIMACK - Costs are piling up for the water contamination probe underway in southern New Hampshire, with several agencies, towns and companies starting to feel the financial pressure.

"Every dollar is being tracked, including all of the staff time spent on this project," said Jim Martin, public information officer with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

So far, state officials have ordered about 190 private well water sample tests, at a cost of \$650 per test for expedited results from ALS Environmental out of Washington.

"We estimate that about \$150,000 has been spent so far on water sample testing, but we are continuing to sample and continuing to expedite results," Martin said last week.

In addition, the state has paid Monadnock Mountain Spring Water Co. \$7,272 for bottled water that is now being distributed to families in Litchfield and Merrimack that live within 1 mile of Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics and whose wells are contaminated with perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA.

State officials say the company's Merrimack plant is the likely source of PFOA, which has been linked to some cancers and other illnesses, though no concrete causal links have been established.

Martin said the funds being spent on the water contamination investigation are being withdrawn from the state's hazardous waste cleanup fund.

"We are going to have to go to the governor and Executive Council. They are going to have to approve this expenditure of funds because there is no agreement right now that Saint-Gobain is going to pay for this," said Martin.

A services contract or agreement for expenses related to laboratory costs and well testing could come before the governor and council at their meeting Wednesday, or later this month.

Executive Councilor Joe Kenney called the contamination a serious matter that the governor and council would address.

"The quicker we can respond to this and address the contamination, the better off we're going to be," he said.

Public health and safety come first, said Kenney, adding that the cost of bottled water for residents can be addressed in due course.

Although Saint-Gobain has provided a verbal agreement to the state that it will reimburse DES for the bottled water being distributed, there has been no word on whether the company plans to pay for the well water tests.

"There is a lot of accountability that is going into this. A lot of staff have to dedicate their time to certain activities, so we are monitoring all of that," said Martin.

In Hoosick Falls, N.Y., Saint-Gobain has spent about \$4.5 million on bottled water and filtration equipment for the municipal water system there, according to Tom Kinisky, CEO of Saint-Gobain.

The company also is treating water contamination discovered recently in North Bennington, Vt.; however, that price tag has yet to be determined, said Kinisky.

"We are supporting and going to fund the (point-of-entry filtration unit) systems in New York and Vermont . and we are going to take a similar approach in New Hampshire," he recently told the New Hampshire Union Leader.

Although the DES investigation into the extent of Saint-Gobain's involvement in the PFOA water contamination is ongoing, the state has ordered the company to submit a remediation plan by May 1.

Right now, the costs associated with the water contamination cleanup are not a concern, said Kinisky, adding that the top priority is cleaning up wells that are detecting PFOA above 100 parts per trillion.

Kinisky explained that the multimillion-dollar cleanup efforts in Hoosick Falls, which included 11 factories within the community, was a different process because it involved the public water supply.

"There we have a very, very complex situation," he said.

While DES says Saint-Gobain is likely the source of the water contamination in southern New Hampshire, Kinisky said that is still to be determined.

"Let's let the investigation play out and see where that ultimately lands," he said.

PFOA cleanups are not unusual in the United States, but they do carry a hefty pricetag.

In 2001, a class-action lawsuit was filed by residents who lived near a DuPont plant on the Ohio-West Virginia border. The groundwater in the area had been contaminated with PFOA for years.

A few years later, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fined DuPont \$16.5 million for the problem, and around the same time, DuPont settled the class-action suit and agreed to install filtration plants and pay a cash award of \$70 million.

In Merrimack, the public water supply is provided by Merrimack Village District to about 25,000 customers. Those water sample test results have varied, but do not exceed 90 ppt.

Because they are below the state's 100 ppt threshold for receiving bottled water, Kinisky said his company is not currently considering a municipal filtration system, although that is a request being made by DES.

Meanwhile, MVD is exploring options for a possible filtration system for its public water supply, a cost that is still being calculated, according to Ron Miner, MVD superintendent.

"I don't have a total at this time, but the MVD has been incurring significant costs related to this issue," said Miner. "In addition to time spent by our own staff, we are working with consultants as well."

Miner said these costs include legal, engineering, hydrology and other miscellaneous fees.

The MVD board of commissioners has approved a proposal from Underwood Engineers Inc. to review what type of treatments are available, including temporary and permanent treatment options, along with possibly retrofitting MVD's new iron and manganese treatment plant that will soon be online.

Aside from those potential costs, there have been other fees connected to the investigation for the towns of Litchfield, Merrimack and Bedford, where public meetings have taken place, police details have been hired and employee overtime costs are necessary.

"Those are additional pieces that probably do add up over time," said Martin.

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- See more at: [http://www.unionleader.com/Costs-for-water-contamination-probe-reach-upward-of-\\$150,000#sthash.dHuwJA50.dpuf](http://www.unionleader.com/Costs-for-water-contamination-probe-reach-upward-of-$150,000#sthash.dHuwJA50.dpuf)